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Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

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The Keystone Ag Digest may be found on the Internet at the following address:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Keystone_Ag_Digest

2005 FRUIT PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania apple production was 455 million pounds, up 50 million pounds from 2004. Of this 455 million pounds, 450 million pounds were utilized. The average utilized yield per bearing acre was 20,900 pounds. The preliminary farm level value of the crop was \$50.738 million, up 26 percent from 2004. Pennsylvania ranked fourth in U.S. apple production behind Washington, New York, and Michigan. Washington produced 5.8 billion pounds, New York produced 1.02 billion pounds, and Michigan produced 790 million pounds.

Tart cherry production was 2.6 million pounds from 800 acres. The yield per bearing acre was 3,250 pounds, down from 3,750 pounds in 2004. The preliminary farm level value was \$1.118 million. Michigan, the top tart cherry producing state, harvested 208 million pounds.

Pennsylvania peach production was 26,600 tons from 4,500 acres in 2005. The average utilized yield per bearing acre was 5.91 tons per acre. The preliminary farm level value of the crop was \$19.533 million. Pennsylvania ranked fifth in peach production behind California, South Carolina, Georgia, and New Jersey.

Pear production was 2,100 tons from 800 acres in 2005. The preliminary farm level value was \$1.254 million.

Pennsylvania grape growers produced 90,000 tons from 12,000 acres in 2005. The preliminary farm level value was \$19.608 million. There were 78,000 tons of Concord, 6,000 tons of Niagara, and 6,000 tons of other grapes crushed in 2005. Grapes processed for wine increased to 16,300 tons, up 23 percent from 2004. Pennsylvania ranked fifth in grape production behind California, Washington, New York, and Michigan.

2005 VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania's vegetable farmers harvested 17,700 acres of sweet corn for fresh market in 2005 with production totaling 1,080,000 cwt. This is 22 percent less than the 2004 production for fresh market. Average value of fresh market sweet corn was \$29.40 per cwt., \$7.30 per cwt. more than the price received in 2004. Production for processed sweet corn amounted to 6,630 tons, a decrease of 17 percent from 2004's production. The average value for processed sweet corn increased from \$94.20 per ton in 2004 to \$94.70 per ton in 2005.

Nationally, 238,900 acres of sweet corn was harvested for fresh market in 2005 and 403,910 acres were harvested for processing. Fresh market production totaled 27.3 million cwt. and was valued at \$22.10 per cwt. Processing production totaled 3.17 million tons in 2005 with an average

value of \$68.40 per ton. Fifty-four percent of the processing production was utilized for canning and 46 percent was for freezing.

Pennsylvania's 2005 fresh market tomato production was estimated at 513,000 cwt., down 8 percent from 2004. Area harvested was 3,800 acres. The average value was \$51.00 per cwt.

United States' production of fresh market tomatoes was 39.5 million cwt. in 2005, a 3 percent increase from 2004. Area harvested was 129,800 acres. Average value of tomatoes for fresh market was \$41.50 per cwt.

In Pennsylvania, 9,500 acres of snap beans were harvested for processing in 2005. Total production was 27,380 tons with an average value of \$222.00 per ton.

At the U.S. level, 210,620 acres of snap beans were harvested for processing in 2005. Total production decreased from 835,880 in 2004, to 821,770 tons in 2005. Canning utilized 581,790 tons of the production. Average value decreased from \$158.00 per ton in 2004 to \$141.00 in 2005.

Pennsylvania's strawberry production, harvested from 1,300 acres for fresh market and processing was 70,000 cwt., down 11 percent from 2004. Average value per cwt. was \$183.00.

The U.S. strawberry production in 2005 was 23.2 million cwt., up 4.9 percent from 2004. Acreage harvested was 52,200; the average value per cwt. was \$59.60.

Pennsylvania's 2005 fresh market cabbage production was estimated at 221,000 cwt. Area harvested was 1,300 acres. The average value was \$18.20 per cwt. Pennsylvania's cantaloupe production for fresh market was 140,000 cwt. Total acreage harvested was 1,000. The average value per cwt. was \$29.40 in 2005.

Nationally, 73,700 acres of cabbage were harvested for fresh market in 2005. Fresh market production totaled 24.2 million cwt. and was valued at \$13.70 per cwt. U.S. fresh market cantaloupe production totaled 22.1 million cwt. in 2005 with an average value of \$13.60 per cwt. There were 89,160 acres harvested.

Pennsylvania's 2005 fresh market and processed pumpkin production was estimated at 1,313,000 cwt. Area harvested was 7,500 acres. The average value was \$12.30 per cwt.

Nationally, 44,700 acres of pumpkins were harvested for fresh market and processing in 2005. Total production was 10.86 million cwt. and was valued at \$9.74 per cwt.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, JANUARY 2006

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 2005	Dec 2005	Jan 2006 ¹	Jan 2005	Dec 2005	Jan 2006 ¹
Dollars							
Corn.....	Bu.	2.32	2.14	2.37	2.12	1.92	1.96
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.28	3.46	3.38
Oats.....	Bu.	⁵	2.83	2.50	1.64	1.73	1.67
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	2.41	2.49	2.41
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	5.57	5.77	5.51
Hay, Dry All	Ton	127.00	141.00	139.00	87.80	92.00	91.20
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	155.00	168.00	164.00	94.50	97.70	95.60
Dry Other.....	Ton	116.00	134.00	127.00	73.30	78.00	79.30
Apples, Fresh Use.....	Lb.	.230	.210	.240	.216	.265	.260
Potatoes	Cwt.	⁶	⁶	⁶	5.59	6.93	7.00
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	50.10	46.60	46.20	50.50	47.20	46.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	84.90	88.50	90.40	94.40	99.90	101.00
Calves	Cwt.	115.00	118.00	116.00	125.00	134.00	137.00
Barrows & Gilts.....	Cwt.	53.00	43.10	39.50	53.50	44.50	41.90
Sows.....	Cwt.	44.70	36.10	34.80	45.60	38.10	35.70
Eggs ³	Doz.	.380	.590	.450	.373	.564	.438
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	17.90	16.60	-	15.90	14.80	14.60
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	14.70	13.70	-	14.90	14.40	14.10
All	Cwt.	17.90	16.60	16.50	15.90	14.80	14.50
Milk Cows ⁴	Head	1,600.00	-	1,900.00	1,620.00	-	1,840.00

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.). ⁵ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. ⁶ Monthly price for potatoes discontinued in 2005.

JANUARY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECREASED 3 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by farmers in January, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 3 points (2.6 percent) from December. The Crop Index is down 3 points (2.7 percent) and the Livestock Index also decreased 3 points (2.5 percent). Producers received lower commodity prices for lettuce, turkeys, eggs, and hogs. Higher prices were received for cattle, oranges, corn, and cotton. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of grapes, tomatoes, dairy, and cotton.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 1 point (0.9 percent) from January 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 118, decreased 4 points (3.3 percent) from last month but increased 2 points (1.7 percent) from January 2005.

Feed Grains & Hay: The January index is 90, unchanged from last month but 5.3 percent below a year ago. The corn price, at \$1.96 per bushel, is up 4 cents from last month but 16 cents below January 2005. The all hay price, at \$91.20 per ton, is 80 cents below December but up \$3.40 from last January.

Fruits & Nuts: The January index, at 136, is up 12 percent from December and 19 percent higher than a year ago. Price increases for oranges and grapefruit more than offset price decreases for lemons, apples, and strawberries.

Commercial Vegetables: The January index, at 137, is down 19 percent from last month but 44 percent above January 2005. Price decreases during January for lettuce, cucumbers, broccoli, snap beans, and cauliflower more than offset the price increase for tomatoes.

SHEEP INVENTORY

All sheep and lamb inventory in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2006 totaled 110,000, up 10 percent from the previous year.

Total inventory included 73,000 breeding ewes one year old and older, up 16 percent from January 1, 2005. There were 15,000 replacement lambs, unchanged from last year's total. Rams one year old and older totaled 6,000, which is 20 percent more than a year ago. Market sheep and lambs totaled 16,000 on January 1, 2006, down 6 percent from last year. Of this total, 14,000 were market lambs and 2,000 were market sheep. The 2005 lamb crop of 88,000 head was up from 2004. The 2005 lambing rate was 140 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2005, down from 145 lambs per 100 ewes the previous year.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2006, totaled 6.23 million head, up 2 percent from both 2005 and 2004. The inventory began increasing in 2005 and has shown two consecutive year to year increases for the first time since 1987 and 1988. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.64 million head on January 1, 2006, up 2 percent from 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.66 million head, were 2 percent above last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2006 totaled 1.59 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2005. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Of the number of market lambs, 27 percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, and 35 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings. The 2005 lamb crop of 4.13 million head was up 1 percent from 2004's record low. The 2005 lambing rate was 115 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from 2004.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2005 was 37.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2004. The average price paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.71 per pound for a total value of \$26.3 million dollars, down 12 percent from \$29.9 million dollars in 2004.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 31, 2005

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 5,990,000 bushels on December 31, 2005, compared to 5,501,000 bushels on December 31, 2004. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 2,020,000; Golden Delicious with 1,529,000; and Rome, 1,006,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 251,580,000 pounds on December 31, 2005, compared to 231,000,000 pounds on December 31, 2004. There were 3,000 pounds of pears in storage in Pennsylvania on December 31, 2005.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on December 31, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for cheese, chicken, frozen vegetables and eggs.

Butter stocks were down 6 percent from last month, but up 27 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were slightly below last month and down 10 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 2 percent from last month and down 11 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 67 percent from last month, but down 15 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on December 31, 2005 were up 5 percent from the previous month and up 12 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 5 percent from the previous month and up 28 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 4 percent from last month, but down 30 percent from December 31, 2004.

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Dec 31, 2004	Nov 30, 2005	Dec 31, 2005
		<i>(000) Lbs.</i>	
Butter	44,988	60,430	57,060
Cheese, Total Natural.....	705,790	716,780	731,004
Eggs, Frozen	19,112	17,601	21,019
Poultry, Total Frozen	1,005,200	1,074,744	1,124,944
Chicken.....	716,180	876,687	919,888
Turkeys.....	288,357	195,177	202,456
Fruits, Frozen	1,093,884	1,132,593	1,065,734
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,761,439	1,300,401	1,338,888
Vegetables, Total Frozen	2,218,098	2,461,094	2,238,067
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,074,819	1,122,465	1,046,778
Meats, Total Frozen.....	979,037	888,195	883,806
Beef, Total Frozen	484,276	429,824	433,768
Pork, Total Frozen	482,852	437,461	427,709

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, DECEMBER 2005

Variety	December 31, 2004					December 31, 2005				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	5	4	8752	643	1,527	15	5	1,375	625	2,020
Stayman.....	30	1	50	0	81	14	5	43	0	62
Rome	40	70	735	356	1,201	16	50	550	390	1,006
Red Delicious.....	100	281	100	60	541	120	325	60	30	535
Golden Delicious...	30	139	470	511	1,150	152	220	667	490	1,529
Gala	10	20	2	2	34	6	71	6	1	84
McIntosh	10	4	85	11	33	10	3	3	10	26
Fuji	120	18	28	0	166	110	42	40	1	193
Other ²	100	90	407	171	768	57	99	291	88	535
Total	445	627	2,675	1,754	5,501	500	820	3,035	1,635	5,990

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. ² Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified. n/p (not published) due to too few reports or insignificant volumes stored, these are included in the 'other' variety category.

APPLE & PEAR STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PA & U.S., DECEMBER 31, 2005

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	December 31, 2004	November 30, 2005	December 31, 2005
PENNSYLVANIA			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	131,000,000	173,250,000	148,470,000
Controlled Atmosphere.....	100,000,000	98,364,000	103,110,000
Total Apples.....	231,000,000	271,614,000	251,580,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	0	1,000	0
Other Varieties.....	0	3,000	3,000
Total Pears.....	0	4,000	3,000
UNITED STATES			
APPLES:			
Regular Storage	858,184,000	1,028,602,000	676,133,000
Controlled Atmosphere.....	4,328,804,000	4,415,177,000	4,074,440,000
Total Apples.....	5,186,988,000	5,443,779,000	4,750,573,000
PEARS:			
Bartletts	6,574,000	30,138,000	12,611,000
Other Varieties.....	276,382,000	405,683,000	317,512,000
Total Pears	282,956,000	435,821,000	330,123,000

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
Layers.....	Thous.	23,920	24,096	24,444	345,960	346,145	348,300
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,379	2,249	2,320	2,234	2,176	2,237
Eggs Produced.....	Million	569	542	567	7,728	7,533	7,791
Chick Hatch-Egg Type.....	Thous.	5,291	4,008	4,889	37,332	32,752	36,224
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type.....	Thous.	14,060	13,574	14,723	793,090	747,335	807,848
Poults Placed.....	Thous.	-	-	-	22,230	21,850	23,672

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during December 2005 totaled 567 million eggs, very close to the production of 569 million eggs in December 2004. The total number of layers averaged 24.4 million during December, up 2 percent from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,320 eggs during the month, a decrease of 59 eggs from December 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2005 totaled 4.89 million, down 8 percent from the 5.29 million hatched the previous December. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 14.7 million during December 2005, up 5 percent from the 14.1 million hatched during the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.79 billion during December 2005, up 1 percent from last year's total. The total number of layers during December averaged 348 million, up half a percentage point from the average number of layers during the same month last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,237 eggs, up 3 eggs from the same month last year.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during December totaled 36.2 million, down 3 percent from December 2004. Broiler-type hatch totaled 808 million, up 2 percent from last year at this time. There were 23.7 million turkey poults placed in the United States during December 2005, up 6 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, DEC 2005

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod.....	Mil. Lbs.	106.0	3,953
Cattle.....	Thous. Hd.	68.0	2,666
	Mil. Lbs. Live	84.7	3,414
Calves.....	Thous. Hd.	12.7	60
	Mil. Lbs. Live	5.4	22
Hogs.....	Thous. Hd.	285.6	9,233
	Mil. Lbs. Live	70.7	2,510
Sheep & Lambs.....	Thous. Hd.	4.4	231
	Mil. Lbs. Live	.4	33

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during December 2005 totaled 106.0 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 3 percent from December 2004. Beef production, at 84.7 million pounds live weight, was up 3 percent from December 2004. Total head slaughtered was 68,000, down 2 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 66 pounds to 1,246 pounds. Veal production was 5.4 million pounds live weight, down 9 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter, at 12,700 head, was down 23 percent, and average live weight increased 62 pounds to 425 pounds. Pork production, at 70.7 million pounds live weight, was up 2 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 285,600, down slightly from December of 2004. Average live weight was 248 pounds, up 6 pounds from December of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 406,000 pounds live weight, down 17 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,400, down 21 percent from December of last year. The average live weight increased 5 pounds from December 2004 to 92 pounds.

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